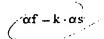
Do not enter. Blaslob Application No. 10/560,616

In the claims:

1. (currently amended) Optical apparatus comprising:

a pump goiding fiber comprising a fiber cladding, a fiber core and an attachment section, said attachment section comprising a straight core section and a tapered core section; and

a receiving fiber comprising an inner clad to which said straight core section and said tapered core section of said attachment section is are attached, wherein a divergence angle of light in said pump guiding fiber as, and a light acceptance angle of said inner clad of said receiving fiber, af, satisfy the following relation:



wherein k is a constant equal or smaller than 1.

- (original) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a ratio between a minimum cross section area of the tapered core section and said straight core section is in a range from 0.01 to 0.5.
- 3. (original) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said pump guiding fiber is optically attached at one end thereof, opposite to said attachment section, to a pump source.
- 4. (original) Apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said pump source comprises a semiconductor diode laser.
- 5. (cancelled)
- 6. (original) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said receiving fiber comprises a double clad fiber.
- 7. (original) Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said double clad liber comprises a protective outer jacket, an outer clad, an inner clad and a doped core.
- 8. (original) Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said doped core comprises a rare-carth doped core.
- 9. (new) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a length of said straight core section that is attached to said receiving fiber is at loast as long as a length of said tapered core section that is attached to said receiving fiber.